

ONE MILLION NEW COUSINS.

ALL ABOUT THE IMMIGRANTS WHICH UNCLE SAM IS ADOPTING INTO OUR NATIONAL FAMILY.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

WASHINGTON—The invasion of the Goths and Vandals destroyed the Roman empire. Will the invasion of the hordes of ignorant Europeans destroy our republic? This question is beginning to stir the minds of our sociologists. Our immigration is increasing by gigantic leaps. From the beginning of our government until now just about 23,000,000 foreigners have come into this country. The time covered is about 130 years. During the past 12 months the immigrants numbered more than 1,000,000, which was 20 per cent more than we have had in any year before. We have now in round numbers 80,000,000 people, and last year we added one foreigner to every 50 souls.

It behooves us to know who these people are, where they come from and

Italy and Russia, and they are day laborers rather than farm settlers."

A MILLION NEW RELATIVES.

All American citizens are called the nephews and nieces of Uncle Sam. Tell me something about this new million of raw emigrants who have become our cousins in 1905?

"Most of these immigrants are not bad and they will make good members of our national family," replied the commissioner general of immigration. "Still there are rare birds among them and some are so bad that we have shipped 10,000 or so back to the countries whence they came. Take the Italians. There were more of them than there are people in the city of Genoa and 186,000 of them came from southern Italy. There were about 130,000 Hebrews, 102,000 Poles and a large number of other Russians and Austro-Hungarians. We admitted over 80,000 Germans and something like 120,000 English, Irish and Scotch. As to our

A Million a Year and Mostly From Southern Europe—Hundreds Who Cannot Write or Read—The Paupers and the Diseased and How They Are Kept Out—Contract Labor Schemes—The Immigrants Should be Scattered—How the Steamships Tout For Them—Something About Our Incoming Russians and Chinese Cheap Labor—A Talk With the Commissioner General of Immigration as to the Situation.

more than any other. It swallowed up 31 per cent, or almost one-third, of last year's millions. Pennsylvania came next with 200,000, and after that Illinois, Massachusetts and Little New Jersey. The south, which needs labor to develop its farming lands, got almost nothing, and the great agricultural west comparatively little. A large part of Pennsylvania's immigration went into the coal mines. Ohio had also a large number of these immigrants."

perity which this country is now having and the great demand for labor arising therefrom. If you will look over a table showing the rise and fall of our immigration since our beginning as an independent government you will see that we have a big influx of foreigners when times are good, but that the flow stops when they become bad. Indeed, immigration is one of the best of thermometers to test our financial condition. From the beginning up to

much labor is imported that way. This may be the case with the southern Italians, who are largely worked here by contract after they land, with padrones in charge."

IMMIGRANTS SHOULD BE SCATTERED.

"Would it not be far better for the country, Mr. Sargent, if these people could be scattered throughout the United States?"

"Very much so, and I am doing all I can toward that end. Indeed, I think it would pay the national government and the individual states to institute measures whereby the immigrants might be induced to go where they will do the most good for themselves and the country. This work should begin in the localities from which the immigrants come. As it is now the immigrants who congest our big cities have gone there because their friends who are laboring in America have written them. They go where their friends are and do not know that there are better locations elsewhere. They expect to find good jobs and big pay waiting for them the moment they land in New York. They often fall into the hands of employment agencies and are misled."

"The national government might present the opportunities offered by different sections of the United States to would-be immigrants abroad and also have bureaus of information at our chief ports to show them where to go upon landing. The states which so much need immigrants should send agents to foreign countries to drum up the best classes of settlers, and they might publish their inducements in the language of the countries from where the immigrants come. Each such state should have a representative at New York to meet immigrants as they land at Ellis Island, and he could if he would take them to see an exhibition of the products of his state on show nearby. Such men as were especially desirable as settlers might be helped on their way."

"Today the south is suffering from a labor famine," continued Mr. Sargent. "Nevertheless, of the million who came in last year only 45 per cent went south of Mason and Dixon's line. Maryland, West Virginia and Florida each received only about 9,000 and Louisiana 5,000. Texas could use hundreds of thousands of settlers, but she got only 4,000 out of that million. Tennessee did not get 800 and Kentucky still less. What should be done is to divert the streams of immigration, if possible, to different ports. Why should not Louisiana and Texas have immigrants landing at New Orleans and Galveston instead of New York?"

"I suppose one of the great forces causing emigration from Europe is the steamships?"

"Yes. They make from \$20 to \$30 out of each man they bring across the Atlantic, and some single steamers carry a thousand or more at a time. This means a small per cent of the passage money for each person they induce to go abroad, and there are also runners in eastern and southern Europe who go from city to city and from village to village for this purpose. They tell fairy tales about the prosperity of the many immigrants now in America and of the opportunities we offer to aliens. It is by such means that paupers and diseased persons are induced to make the journey, only to find that they are shipped back upon landing."

"As to the importation of undesirable characters," the commissioner general continued, "that is largely prevented now by our law. We make each steamer pay \$100 fine for every person brought to our shores who does not correspond with the regulations of admission, and at the same time we force the companies to carry persons back free of charge. The result is a steamship company will sometimes refuse to take an immigrant without he deposits \$100 with it to cover the danger of this fine."

OUR PAUPER IMMIGRANTS.

"But do we not admit many paupers into the country?"

"We try to prevent it," said Mr. Sargent. "And we do send many such back to Europe. Last year just about 8,000 were refused admission and more than 2,000 were kept out because they had contagious diseases. As it is now a large proportion of the inmates of our penal and charitable institutions are foreigners. We have more than 44,000 aliens in such places, and of these about 40,000 are over 21 years old. The most of them came in through New York, although they are scattered all over the country. As it is now more than 28 per cent of all the members of such institutions are of foreign birth, and more than 11 per cent have never been naturalized."

RUSSIANS COMING TO AMERICA.

"Are the Russian troubles affecting our immigration?"

"Yes. We have had a big increase from that part of the world, and if the troubles continue we will have more. We got 145,000 from Russia and Finland in 1904 and about 185,000 in 1905, showing an increase of just about 40,000. The increase in our number of Hebrews is largely due to the troubles in Russia. We got 130,000 of them last year."

CHINESE CHEAP LABOR.

"How about the Chinese, Mr. Sargent? Are not they unjustly kept out?"

"I think not. They are admitted according to law and the laws are fairly enforced. Both our government and that of the empire of China want to keep these laborers out of the United States. Nevertheless, the conditions

are such that it is difficult to do so. It costs us more to guard this class of improper immigrants than almost any other. The Chinese who wish to come here is usually able to command the best legal advice to help him, he can secure witnesses to testify to anything and can tempt smugglers by the payment of large sums of money. He is backed by organizations which are ready to help him to almost any extent, and it is difficult to keep him out. It is not true that the Chinese have been insulted by our immigration officers, and it is not true that we treat them unfairly in any way. We merely carry out the law."

"How many Chinese came in last year?"

"Less than 2,000, and we sent back 394 under the Chinese exclusion act."

"What kind of Chinese come into the United States?"

"The treaty provides for the admission of merchants, teachers, students and travelers, and the courts have said that the wives and children of merchants may also be admitted. We had more than 600 Chinese who asked admission as merchants last year and about 550 were admitted."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

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TWO HOLLAND HUSKIES.

FROM SOUTHERN EUROPE.

where they are settling. To find out I asked Mr. Frank P. Sargent, the commissioner general of immigration, and asked many questions. In reply he brought out records and papers, and at the same time showed me photographs recently made of some of our immigrants.

UNCLE SAM'S BIG BITE.

I asked Mr. Sargent: "Don't you think Uncle Sam is biting off more than he can chew. A million in the raw is a big mouthful. Can the country maintain and digest it?"

"Yes," replied the commissioner general of immigration. "The teeth of our nation are strong and its stomach capacity is large. The immigrants are of the right character, and they can be carried to the right localities. In reply to the right localities, we shall have no trouble whatever. The chief difficulty is that many of them are ignorant and they show a tendency to congest our big cities. They are not like the immigrants of the first three quarters of our century, who came with the ambition to be farm owners. They settled upon our homesteads and other cheap lands and scattered themselves out over the United States. Such foreigners landed and were transformed into Americans. Their children learned our language and all were quickly absorbed into the body politic. Those immigrants came from northern Europe, and especially from Germany and the United Kingdom. They formed the bulk of our immigration until well up into the eighties. The most of our immigrants are now coming from Austria-Hungary,

people from southeastern Europe, we brought in 52,000 Slovaks, 46,000 Magyars, 35,000 Croats and Slavonians, 10,000 Bohemians and Moravians and 12,000 Greeks."

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS CAN'T WRITE.

"How do these immigrants compare with those of the past as to literacy?" I asked.

"They contain many more who cannot read or write. The immigration from northern Europe from 1880 to 1885 was extraordinarily well educated. Of those from Denmark, Norway and Sweden we rarely found one who could not read and write, only about 3 per cent of the Scotch, Irish and English were illiterate and only 8 per cent of the Germans. In contrast take our immigrants from 1890 to 1905. Of the Russians and Austro-Hungarians, one man in every four or five was illiterate, and of the Italians 45 per cent could not read or write. During that time over 175,000 Italians landed here and more than 80,000 of them were totally uneducated. Our Scandinavian immigrants are on the whole the best educated."

WHERE THEY GO.

"Where are these immigrants now going, Mr. Sargent?" I asked.

"The majority seek the large cities and the various factory, mining and industrial centers. They are, as I have already said, largely laborers, who have come here to get an easier job and better wages. New York state gets

"But you must not think that all of these immigrants are laborers," Mr. Sargent went on. "There are many who engage in other businesses. The Hebrews, for instance, often go into merchandising. They are small shopkeepers and also tailors and members of the clothing trades. The northern Italians are usually better off than those from about Naples, and many of them become farmers. The Germans and British go into all sorts of trades and enterprises."

"I suppose most of these immigrants were very poor?"

"Yes, the majority had little or nothing. Nevertheless, the total sum brought in by them in 1905 amounted to more than \$25,000,000."

"I suppose the most of that sum came from the English and Germans, did it not?"

"Yes, proportionately so. There were 50,000 English and they brought about \$3,000,000, whereas nearly as many Magyars brought less than \$700,000. The 50,000 Irish had almost a million and a half, while the more than double as many Jews had only about \$300,000 more. The 80,000 Germans brought in \$3,600,000, and more than double as many southern Italians had not as much. Altogether there were less than 112,000 immigrants who had \$50 or more each, and about 850,000 who had less than that amount. The balance were children who had none at all."

"What is the cause of this great increase in our immigration, Mr. Commissioner General?"

"It is largely due to the era of pros-

1855 the rise was comparatively steady. Then came the panic of 1857 and the civil war, and the number of immigrants fell from over 400,000 to less than 100,000 per annum. As the war closed the stream rose, and gradually approached 500,000, when the panic of 1873 sent it down again. It rose to almost 800,000 in 1882, and then, because of another hard times season, again dropped, to fall still lower down after 1893. The present increase began with 1899, when it was little over 200,000. The immigrants we admitted in 1905 were 1,025,498. If we should have a season of financial troubles I have no doubt our immigration would at once fall off and that we should lose many of the men who are coming now."

CONTRACT LABOR.

"Are not many of our immigrants brought in by the owners of mines and factories? Are they not furnished with money and imported in violation of our laws as to contract labor?"

"It seems natural to think so," said the commissioner general of immigration, "but it is difficult to prove it. Take, for instance, such a case as frequently occurs in which 100 men, more or less, each supplied with the same amount of money, start at the same time from one small community in Europe for the same port of the United States and upon landing all make their way to one locality, where they go to work for one factory or railroad—would you not think that those men were imported under contract? We do, but we find it almost impossible to prevent it. Indeed, I have little doubt but that

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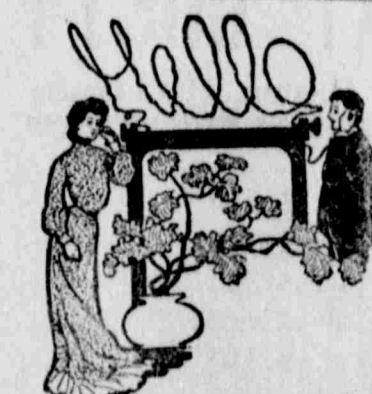
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